



News from the

Botanical Garden

San Antonio Botanical Society

Draft #1 - For Client Approval

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September 15, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Botanical Garden to be infested with creepy, crawly creatures—of the human kind

On a Sunday afternoon in late October, the San Antonio Botanical Garden will not only be crawling with small creatures and critters of the animal and insect kingdom—as usual—but also with many scary critters of the human variety.

Or that is certainly the plan, as the sponsors of *Bootanica* hope to fill the garden on Sunday, October 26 with all sorts of Halloween creatures and critters—be they human or artificial.

Bootanica, which occurs from 1-4 p.m. the Sunday before Halloween, celebrates fall harvest and Halloween themes in a safe environment where families can share fun, educational activities in a natural setting. Throughout the formal garden, families will be entertained by music and costumed characters as they spot scarecrows created by local artists and groups. Children and families can participate in the Costume Parade, led by musicians as it winds around the park.

Food and drink vendors will sell fall favorites, such as caramel apples, spiced apple cider, sausages on a stick, and corn on the cob. Families can partake in a scavenger hunt for spooky plants, or play traditional harvest games such as family relay races, circle games and other similar activities.

The cost of admittance for *Bootanica* is the same as any Sunday: Adults \$5; Children (age 3 – 13) are \$2; Senior Citizens (age 55 and older) \$3; and Military & Students (with proper ID) \$3. Group rates for groups of 15 or more are available; the garden only accepts cash.

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Bootanica will be staged with six tented activity stations led by professional artists educators or botanists:

- * Nature's Noisemakers: Little trick-or-treaters make a noisemaker to use on Halloween using simple recycled items and plant materials, such as seeds, beans, branches, and vines.
- * Leaf Skeletons and Plant Mummies: Older participants can learn how to make leafy skeletons and preserve fall foliage, fruits, and flowers for dried arrangements.
- * Flores de los muertos: Explore the role of flowers in Dia de Los Muertos celebrations.
- * Leaf Paintings: San Antonio's fall foliage comes along later, but using oil pastels and watercolor, children can create their own colorful leaf paintings.
- * Harvest Printing: Using fall fruits and vegetables as inspiration, print a colorful picture with paints and/or dyes.
- * Palm Bark Masks: Older children and adults learn to transform a palm bark husk into a mask suitable for depicting an alien being, dragon, or cave-dwelling human.
- * Nut Shell Critters: Transform walnut, peanut and pecan shells into creepy crawlies perfect for a Halloween table.

An annual tradition at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, *Bootanica* is being produced by the San Antonio Botanical Society as an afternoon event this year. The Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to support the San Antonio Botanical Garden.

The San Antonio Botanical Garden is located at 555 Funston at N. New Braunfels. For more information, telephone 210-829-5100 or visit www.sabot.org.